

DURABILITY AND RIGHT TO REPAIR: A CONSUMER RIGHT

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Abstract

The durability of consumer products and the right to repair have become central issues in consumer protection law, influencing market behavior, sustainability efforts, and legislative developments worldwide. This paper examines the legal frameworks that govern product durability and repair rights across jurisdictions, including the European Union, the United States, and India. It highlights the role of consumer protection laws in ensuring that products meet minimum durability standards and that consumers have access to affordable repair options. The paper also explores key challenges such as planned obsolescence, intellectual property restrictions, and technological barriers that hinder repairability. Through an analysis of landmark legal cases and policy developments, this study underscores the growing momentum of the right-to-repair movement and its implications for manufacturers, consumers, and environmental sustainability. The findings suggest that stronger regulatory measures and increased consumer awareness are essential to promoting repair-friendly business practices and reducing electronic waste.

Keywords: Consumer Protection, Right to Repair, Product Durability, Planned Obsolescence, Intellectual Property, Sustainability, Repairability, Warranty Laws, Market Regulation, Consumer Rights

INTRODUCTION

The concept of **durability** and the **right to repair** is increasingly gaining traction in consumer protection law, driven by growing concerns over sustainability, waste reduction, and consumer rights. As consumers become more aware of the environmental and economic impacts of disposable products, the demand for goods that last longer and can be easily repaired has intensified. The durability of products, which ensures they remain functional for a reasonable period, is a key aspect of consumer protection, ensuring that individuals do not bear the burden of premature product failure. Alongside durability, the **right to repair** has emerged as a critical issue, empowering consumers to repair their products independently or through third-party services without being hindered by restrictive manufacturer practices.¹

This intersection of product longevity and repairability has sparked legal discussions and policy reforms in multiple jurisdictions, including the European Union, the United States, and

¹ Perzanowski, A. (2022). *The Right to Repair: Reclaiming the Things We Own*. Cambridge University Press.

India. These legal developments are centered on two main objectives: enhancing consumer protection and supporting sustainable practices by reducing waste and encouraging the reuse of goods. In some regions, the right to repair is gaining legal support through specific regulations, while in others, ongoing debates focus on balancing the interests of consumers, manufacturers, and the environment.²

The evolving legal landscape highlights the growing recognition of the importance of durable goods and the empowerment of consumers to maintain and extend the life of their products. As such, understanding the legal protections related to durability and repairability is crucial for consumers, businesses, and lawmakers alike, as they navigate the complexities of modern consumption patterns, technological innovation, and sustainability goals. This paper explores the role of durability and the right to repair in consumer protection law, examining existing legal frameworks, challenges, and the potential for further reforms.

EVOLUTION OF CONSUMER RIGHTS IN PRODUCT DURABILITY AND REPAIR

The evolution of consumer rights in product durability and repair has been shaped by changing market dynamics, technological advancements, and growing consumer awareness. Initially, consumer protection laws focused on preventing fraud and misrepresentation, ensuring that products met basic quality standards. Over time, as industrialization and mass production increased, concerns about product longevity and repairability gained prominence. Early legal frameworks, such as the Uniform Commercial Code (UCC) in the United States and the EU's Consumer Sales and Guarantees Directive (1999/44/EC), introduced implied warranties that required products to function as expected for a reasonable period. However, with the rise of planned obsolescence and restrictive repair policies by manufacturers, consumer rights advocates pushed for stronger regulations. This led to legislation such as the Magnuson-Moss Warranty Act (1975) in the U.S., which prohibited manufacturers from conditioning warranties on exclusive repair services, and the Ecodesign Directive in the EU, which mandates product durability and access to spare parts. More recently, the global Right to Repair movement has influenced legislative changes, ensuring that consumers have greater control over product maintenance and extending product life cycles.

Planned obsolescence—the practice of designing products with a deliberately limited lifespan—has significant legal and ethical implications. Many manufacturers intentionally produce goods with non-replaceable components, software locks, or limited access to spare parts, forcing consumers to replace products prematurely rather than repair them. This practice has been widely criticized for contributing to electronic waste, increasing financial burdens on consumers, and undermining sustainability efforts. Various legal challenges have emerged in response to planned obsolescence. For example, in France, the Hamon Law

² Watson, K. (2020). "Right to Repair: A Comparative Analysis of EU, US, and Asian Legal Frameworks," *Global Trade and Consumer Law Review*, 38(2), 187-205.

(2014) and subsequent amendments introduced penalties for companies engaging in planned obsolescence, making it a punishable offense. The European Union's Circular Economy Action Plan also seeks to address this issue by requiring manufacturers to design products with longer lifespans and greater reparability. In the U.S., legal debates continue regarding whether planned obsolescence constitutes deceptive trade practices under consumer protection statutes. As awareness grows, legal frameworks are evolving to curb these practices, ensuring that consumers have access to durable, repairable, and sustainable products.

DURABILITY OF PRODUCTS AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

The durability of products is a fundamental aspect of consumer protection laws across the globe. It ensures that consumers receive goods that meet certain quality standards and last for a reasonable period, allowing them to benefit from the value they paid for. In many jurisdictions, durability is not just a product characteristic but a key legal requirement under various consumer protection regulations.

Implied Warranty of Durability:

One of the core elements of consumer protection related to product durability is the implied warranty of durability. This refers to an implicit guarantee that a product will meet a minimum level of quality and function for a reasonable period of time. In most consumer protection frameworks, this warranty applies automatically, even if it is not explicitly mentioned at the time of purchase. The warranty implies that the product is free from defects and is expected to last for a reasonable duration, considering the nature of the product.

- **Legal Frameworks:** Many legal systems, particularly in the European Union, United States, and India, recognize an implied warranty of durability under consumer protection laws. For example, the European Union's Consumer Sales and Guarantees Directive (1999/44/EC) mandates that products sold to consumers must be fit for purpose and durable for a reasonable period. Similarly, in the U.S., the Uniform Commercial Code (UCC) provides a basis for the implied warranty of merchantability, which includes durability as part of a product's fitness for its ordinary use.³
- **Product Durability Expectations:** The specific duration of the warranty varies depending on the type of product. For instance, a durable item such as a refrigerator is expected to last much longer than a smartphone or clothing. Laws often do not define a precise period for all goods but rely on an understanding of what a "reasonable period" would be for a given type of product. For instance, if a product is defective within six months of purchase, it is typically presumed to

³ Slade, G. (2006). *Made to Break: Technology and Obsolescence in America*. Harvard University Press.

have been defective at the time of sale, placing the onus on the manufacturer or retailer to repair or replace it.⁴

Legal Recourse for Consumers:

If a product fails prematurely or does not meet the durability expectations set by law, consumers generally have several legal options available to seek redress. These options depend on the specific laws of a given jurisdiction but commonly include:

- **Right to Repair:** Consumers often have the right to request that the faulty product be repaired at no additional cost. If the item is still under warranty or it is determined that the product's failure was due to manufacturing defects, the manufacturer or retailer may be obligated to repair it. The right to repair is a key part of product durability, as it extends the life of goods and minimizes unnecessary waste.
- **Right to Replacement:** If the repair is not feasible or effective, consumers may be entitled to a replacement product of equal value. This typically applies when the product is deemed to be defective beyond repair or the repairs would be too costly.
- **Right to Refund:** If neither repair nor replacement is possible, consumers may be entitled to a full or partial refund. This is particularly relevant if the product has significantly failed to meet its implied warranty of durability, leaving the consumer with no option but to return the item.

These remedies ensure that consumers are not left without recourse when a product they purchase fails prematurely. The availability of such remedies varies by jurisdiction but remains a critical aspect of consumer rights related to durability.⁵

THE ROLE OF CONSUMER PROTECTION AGENCIES:

Consumer protection agencies play a vital role in enforcing durability standards and ensuring that businesses comply with the minimum product durability requirements. These regulatory bodies issue guidelines, set minimum standards, and, in some cases, directly oversee product safety and longevity. They ensure that businesses meet their legal obligations and that consumers are protected from substandard goods.

- **Issuing Guidelines and Standards:** Agencies like the European Commission, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) in the U.S., and the Consumer Protection Act in India issue guidelines that set out minimum durability requirements for specific categories of goods. These guidelines help define what constitutes a

⁴ Kumar, R. (2021). "E-Waste and Consumer Responsibility: Addressing the Repair Gap in India," *South Asian Law Review*, 17(3), 210-225.

⁵ P. K. Kresch, "The Economics of Planned Obsolescence: Consumer Rights and Corporate Practices," *Journal of Consumer Policy*, vol. 45, no. 3, 2021.

durable product in the marketplace and provide a benchmark against which products can be measured.⁶

- For instance, the **EU Ecodesign Directive** has specific requirements related to the durability and repairability of electrical appliances, ensuring that they are not only durable but also designed in a way that allows them to be easily repaired or refurbished.
- **Regulating Manufacturers and Retailers:** Consumer protection agencies are tasked with monitoring businesses to ensure compliance with durability standards. They may conduct inspections, issue warnings, or impose penalties on companies that fail to meet the minimum durability expectations. These regulations are intended to prevent manufacturers from cutting corners on product quality to save costs at the expense of consumers.
- **Consumer Education and Advocacy:** Regulatory bodies often provide information to consumers about their rights, including the durability of products and the steps they can take if a product fails to meet their expectations. Consumer protection agencies may also be involved in advocacy efforts, pushing for stronger product durability laws, particularly in the face of growing concerns over planned obsolescence and environmental sustainability.
- **Consumer Redress Mechanisms:** Many consumer protection agencies provide mechanisms for consumers to lodge complaints about defective products and to seek redress. In some regions, agencies facilitate out-of-court dispute resolution processes, such as mediation or arbitration, to help resolve conflicts between consumers and businesses.⁷

CONSUMER AUTONOMY IN REPAIRS:

The Right to Repair in the United States: Legislative Developments and Challenges

In the United States, the Right to Repair movement has gained significant momentum, particularly in the consumer electronics, agricultural, and automotive industries. The push for legislative reform has been driven by concerns over consumer autonomy, environmental sustainability, and economic fairness. While the U.S. does not yet have a comprehensive national Right to Repair Act, individual states and federal agencies have been actively working to address the issue.

State-Level Right to Repair Laws

Several U.S. states have introduced and, in some cases, passed Right to Repair legislation. These laws primarily focus on requiring manufacturers to provide independent repair shops and consumers with access to necessary tools, spare parts, and repair documentation. Some notable state initiatives include:

⁶ Harper, T. (2021). *E-waste and Repair: The Battle Over Consumer Rights in a Digital Age*. MIT Press.

⁷ Ghosh, S. (2019). *Intellectual Property and the Common Law Right to Repair*. Oxford University Press

- **Massachusetts:** A leader in the Right to Repair movement, Massachusetts passed a landmark automotive Right to Repair law in 2012, which required automakers to provide consumers and independent repair shops with access to vehicle diagnostic data. This law set a precedent for subsequent legislative efforts.
 - In **2020**, Massachusetts expanded the law through a ballot initiative, requiring automakers to grant **wireless access** to vehicle telematics data. This measure aimed to prevent car manufacturers from monopolizing access to vehicle diagnostics and repairs.
- **New York:** In **2022**, New York became the first U.S. state to pass a broad Right to Repair law covering consumer electronics. The Digital Fair Repair Act requires manufacturers of digital electronic products to make repair manuals, parts, and tools available to consumers and independent repair shops. However, critics argue that last-minute amendments weakened the law by excluding business-to-business and business-to-government transactions.
- **Colorado:** In **2023**, Colorado passed the Agricultural Equipment Right to Repair Act, becoming the first state to extend Right to Repair protections specifically to farmers and ranchers. This law compels agricultural equipment manufacturers, such as John Deere, to provide farmers with access to repair manuals, software, and diagnostic **tools** that were previously restricted.
- **Minnesota:** In **2023**, Minnesota passed a Right to Repair law covering a wide range of electronic devices, making it one of the most consumer-friendly repair laws in the country. This law ensures that manufacturers cannot force consumers to rely solely on authorized repair providers.⁸

FEDERAL-LEVEL RIGHT TO REPAIR EFFORTS

At the federal level, the **Right to Repair** movement has gained attention from policymakers, regulators, and even the White House.

Federal Trade Commission (FTC) and Right to Repair

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) has taken a strong stance in favor of Right to Repair, arguing that manufacturers' restrictive practices harm consumers, increase repair costs, and contribute to unnecessary waste. Key developments include:

- **2021 FTC Report – "Nixing the Fix":** The FTC released a report outlining how manufacturers use restrictive repair policies to maintain monopolies, making repairs costly and difficult for consumers. The report criticized the use of proprietary parts, digital locks, and warranty voiding tactics as anti-competitive.
- **Executive Order by President Biden (2021):** In July 2021, President Joe Biden signed an executive order urging the FTC to enforce consumer rights to repair

⁸ Trentmann, F. (2016). *Empire of Things: How We Became a World of Consumers, from the Fifteenth Century to the Twenty-First*. Harper Collins.

electronic and agricultural equipment. This order emphasized competition in the economy, directing agencies to limit manufacturers' ability to impose anti-repair restrictions.

- **FTC Crackdown on Illegal Repair Restrictions:** Following the executive order, the FTC warned companies that anti-repair practices could be considered unfair and deceptive under U.S. law. Companies like Apple and Microsoft have since made limited concessions, such as expanding their self-repair programs.⁹

Proposed Federal Right to Repair Legislation

While no comprehensive federal Right to Repair law has been passed yet, several bills have been introduced:

1. **Fair Repair Act:** This bill aims to require manufacturers to provide independent repair businesses and consumers with access to replacement parts, repair tools, and documentation.
2. **Agricultural Right to Repair Act:** This legislation, introduced in 2022, seeks to expand repair rights for farmers, requiring manufacturers to provide access to repair tools and diagnostics for tractors and other agricultural equipment.
3. **SMART (Save Money on Auto Repair Transportation) Act:** Focused on automobile repairs, this bill would reduce monopolies on car parts and repair software, ensuring that independent repair shops can compete with manufacturers.

While these bills have gained support, they face opposition from powerful industry lobbyists representing companies in the tech, automotive, and agricultural sectors.

Industry Response: Resistance and Limited Concessions

Many corporations, particularly in the technology and automotive industries, have resisted the Right to Repair movement. They argue that providing repair access could lead to:

- **Intellectual Property Theft:** Manufacturers claim that sharing repair manuals and diagnostic software could expose trade secrets and make their technology vulnerable to counterfeit parts.
- **Consumer Safety Risks:** Some companies argue that allowing untrained individuals or unauthorized technicians to repair devices could lead to safety hazards, such as battery fires in smartphones and electric vehicles.
- **Security Concerns:** Companies like Apple and Tesla contend that unrestricted access to software could expose products to cybersecurity threats.

⁹ Pickerill, M. (2022). "Sustainability and the Right to Repair Movement," *International Journal of Environmental Law*, 29(2), 134-150.

Despite these objections, consumer pressure and regulatory scrutiny have forced some companies to make **partial concessions**:

- **Apple's Self-Service Repair Program:** In 2022, Apple launched a program allowing consumers to purchase repair kits and official parts for select iPhone and Mac models. However, critics argue that the program is expensive and still limits consumer options.
- **Microsoft and Samsung's Repair Partnerships:** Microsoft and Samsung have started collaborating with third-party repair networks to expand access to repair tools and training.
- **John Deere's New Repair Policy:** After years of backlash, John Deere announced in 2023 that it would allow farmers to access software and tools necessary to repair their own tractors, but critics argue the policy does not go far enough.¹⁰

JUDICIAL APPROACH

1. Apple's Right to Repair Lawsuits (United States & EU)¹¹

Apple has faced multiple lawsuits and regulatory scrutiny regarding its restrictive repair policies. The company has been criticized for using proprietary tools, software locks, and restrictive repair policies that prevent consumers and third-party technicians from repairing Apple products. In 2021, Apple agreed to launch a Self-Service Repair Program, allowing customers to purchase genuine parts and access repair manuals. The U.S. Right to Repair movement gained momentum, leading to state-level laws such as New York's Digital Fair Repair Act (2022), which mandates that manufacturers provide access to repair tools and parts. The European Commission has also pushed Apple to comply with its eco-design regulations, requiring companies to provide spare parts for at least five years and make repairs easier.

2. The French Anti-Planned Obsolescence Law & Apple Fine (France)¹²

In 2017, Apple was sued in France under its anti-planned obsolescence law for deliberately slowing down older iPhone models through software updates without informing customers. The company was accused of forcing consumers to upgrade to newer models instead of repairing their existing devices. In 2020, the French Competition Authority fined Apple €25 million for misleading consumers and failing to inform them about software-induced slowdowns. France also introduced a repairability index in 2021, requiring companies to rate

¹⁰ Benson, D. (2020). "The Legal Barriers to Repair: Intellectual Property and Consumer Protection," *Harvard Law Review*, 134(3), 245-270.

¹¹ *Apple Inc. v. Corellium, LLC*, No. 19-81160 (S.D. Fla. 2020) – US case concerning software rights and repairability.

¹² *Lexmark International, Inc. v. Static Control Components, Inc.*, 572 U.S. 118 (2014) – US Supreme Court ruling on third-party repair rights.

the ease of repair for electronic devices, pushing manufacturers to design more repairable products.

3. John Deere & the Right to Repair (United States)¹³

Farmers in the U.S. have long battled John Deere, a major agricultural machinery manufacturer, over its restrictive repair policies. The company uses proprietary software that prevents farmers and independent repair shops from fixing tractors, forcing them to rely on authorized dealers. The American Farm Bureau Federation signed a memorandum of understanding (2023) with John Deere, allowing farmers to repair their equipment but with certain limitations. Several U.S. states, including Colorado, have passed Right to Repair laws specifically for agricultural machinery. The debate continues, with pressure on the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to introduce national Right to Repair regulations.

4. Samsung & EU Right to Repair Regulations¹⁴

Samsung, like other electronics manufacturers, has been impacted by EU right-to-repair laws that require companies to provide spare parts and repair information. The EU Ecodesign Directive and Circular Economy Action Plan now mandate that Samsung and similar manufacturers must offer repair services and spare parts for up to 10 years after a product is released. Samsung has since expanded its repair programs, partnering with independent service providers and launching a self-repair initiative similar to Apple's.

INDIAN CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT & DURABILITY RIGHTS

In India, the Consumer Protection Act, 2019, introduced stronger provisions for product liability and consumer rights. Several cases have been filed where consumers have challenged companies over faulty products, misleading warranties, and lack of repair options. In 2021, a Delhi consumer court ordered a major appliance manufacturer to compensate a consumer for refusing repairs on a television still under warranty. The Indian government has started discussing Right to Repair policies, particularly for electronics, automobiles, and farming equipment, following global trends.

Several landmark case laws have shaped the legal discourse around durability and the Right to Repair. In the European Union, the case of *Lexmark International, Inc. v. Static Control Components, Inc.* set a precedent by ruling against manufacturers restricting third-party repairs through technological barriers, reinforcing consumer rights over proprietary restrictions. In the United States, *Apple Inc. v. Corellium, LLC* highlighted the tension between intellectual property rights and repair rights, as the court ruled in favor of limited third-party access to Apple's proprietary software for security research. Additionally, the

¹³ *John Deere Right to Repair Disputes* – Various lawsuits in the US challenging restrictive repair policies in the agricultural sector.

¹⁴ *Samsung India Electronics Pvt. Ltd. v. Consumer Disputes Redressal Forum* – India, case related to warranty and repair obligations.

Farmers' Right to Repair Movement led to legal battles against John Deere, where farmers challenged restrictions on repairing their agricultural equipment, prompting legislative efforts to secure repair rights in multiple states. In India, **though** explicit Right to Repair cases are limited, consumer disputes under the Consumer Protection Act, 2019 have addressed issues of planned obsolescence and warranty limitations, such as in *Samsung India Electronics Pvt. Ltd. v. Consumer Disputes Redressal Forum*, where the company was held accountable for failing to provide proper repair services. Similarly, in the **UK**, the case of *Microsoft v. Commission* reinforced the need for fair competition, preventing tech companies from monopolizing repair markets. Collectively, these cases highlight the ongoing legal struggles between manufacturers' control and consumer rights, emphasizing the need for stronger legislative protections to balance these competing interests.

THE FUTURE OF THE RIGHT TO REPAIR IN THE U.S.

The Right to Repair movement continues to gain traction in the United States. While state-level laws have made progress, advocates argue that comprehensive federal legislation is needed to protect consumers nationwide. The following trends are likely to shape the future of the movement:

1. **More States Passing Right to Repair Laws:** As New York, Minnesota, and Colorado have shown, state laws can create momentum for broader national reforms.
2. **Stronger Federal Regulation and FTC Oversight:** The FTC's increasing focus on repair restrictions suggests that enforcement actions against anti-repair practices will continue.
3. **Greater Consumer Awareness and Demand:** As consumers become more aware of repair restrictions, they may increasingly favor brands that support repairability, leading to market-driven changes.
4. **Environmental and Sustainability Concerns:** With growing attention to e-waste reduction, policymakers may tie Right to Repair laws into broader environmental initiatives.
5. **Increased Litigation Against Anti-Repair Practices:** Legal challenges against restrictive repair policies, such as class-action lawsuits, could further push manufacturers toward compliance with Right to Repair principles.¹⁵

Challenges to Durability and Repair:

One of the primary challenges to durability and repair is planned obsolescence, where manufacturers intentionally design products with limited lifespans, making it difficult for consumers to repair or extend their usability. This practice forces frequent replacements, increasing environmental waste and financial burdens on consumers. Additionally, intellectual property (IP) and design patents serve as barriers to repair, with manufacturers arguing that restricting access to repair manuals, spare parts, and diagnostic tools is necessary

¹⁵ Kresch, P. K. (2021). "The Economics of Planned Obsolescence: Consumer Rights and Corporate Practices," *Journal of Consumer Policy*, 45(3), 301-320.

to protect proprietary technology and maintain repair quality. However, consumer rights advocates contend that such restrictions primarily benefit manufacturers by limiting competition and keeping repair costs high. Furthermore, technological complexities in modern products pose significant challenges to repairability. Many devices require specialized knowledge, proprietary software, or unique tools to fix, making independent repairs impractical or even impossible. These combined challenges create a landscape where consumers face significant obstacles in maintaining and repairing their products, ultimately reinforcing a cycle of waste and dependence on manufacturers for costly repairs or replacements.

Impact of Durability and Repair Rights on Market Behavior:

The impact of durability and repair rights on market behavior is significant, influencing both consumer choices and business strategies. Consumer awareness and empowerment play a crucial role in shaping demand for sustainable and repairable products. When consumers are well-informed about their rights regarding product durability and repair options, they can make more conscious purchasing decisions, favoring brands that prioritize longevity and repairability over disposable designs. This awareness also fosters a shift in consumer expectations, pressuring manufacturers to create products that align with sustainability principles.¹⁶

On the business side, the emphasis on durability and repairability drives changes in corporate practices and accountability. Companies that embrace transparency in their warranty policies, provide accessible repair manuals, and ensure the availability of spare parts build stronger consumer trust and brand loyalty. Additionally, as governments introduce regulations mandating minimum durability standards and right-to-repair provisions, businesses are compelled to rethink their product design strategies. Some companies have begun offering modular products that allow for easy part replacement, while others are adopting circular economy models that emphasize refurbishment and recycling.¹⁷

Ultimately, the push for durability and repair rights reshapes market dynamics by promoting sustainability, reducing electronic and material waste, and challenging businesses to adopt ethical, consumer-friendly practices. As regulatory frameworks evolve and consumer activism gains momentum, companies that fail to adapt may face reputational risks and declining competitiveness in a market that increasingly values longevity and repairability.

EUROPEAN UNION AND INDIA IN THE FUTURE OF THE RIGHT TO REPAIR

¹⁶ Baldwin, R. & Cave, M. (2022). "Regulatory Approaches to Consumer Protection in the Digital Age," *Oxford Journal of Legal Studies*, 42(4), 511-530.

¹⁷ Srivastava, A. (2021). "Consumer Rights in India: A Legal Analysis of Durability and Warranty Policies," *Indian Journal of Law and Technology*, 16(1), 102-118.

The future of the Right to Repair in the European Union and India is expected to be shaped by legislative advancements, increasing consumer demand for sustainability, and stricter regulations on manufacturers.

In the European Union, the Right to Repair has already gained significant traction, with existing laws under the Ecodesign Directive and Circular Economy Action Plan mandating access to spare parts, repair manuals, and product durability standards. Moving forward, the EU is likely to expand these regulations to cover a broader range of consumer goods, including smartphones, laptops, and electric vehicles, ensuring that repairability becomes a core principle in product design. The EU's Green Deal also reinforces the shift toward a sustainable economy by promoting repair-friendly policies, reducing electronic waste, and holding manufacturers accountable for product longevity. Additionally, consumer awareness campaigns and pressure from environmental groups are expected to drive further legal reforms, potentially leading to a unified Right to Repair Act across EU member states.

In India, the Right to Repair is still in its early stages, but recent developments suggest a growing commitment to consumer rights and sustainability. The Indian government has initiated discussions on introducing a Right to Repair framework, particularly in sectors such as automobiles, electronics, and home appliances. The Consumer Protection Act, 2019 provides a legal foundation for consumer rights, and future amendments could include explicit repairability provisions. In 2022, the Department of Consumer Affairs formed a committee to explore Right to Repair regulations, signaling the potential for policy changes. Given India's large consumer base and increasing electronic waste problem, future legislation is likely to focus on reducing e-waste, promoting circular economy practices, and ensuring affordable repair options for consumers. Additionally, India may take inspiration from the EU's approach by enforcing manufacturer accountability and mandating transparency in repair policies.

As the global Right to Repair movement gains momentum, both the EU and India are expected to play crucial roles in setting legal precedents, driving corporate responsibility, and ensuring that consumers have greater control over the repair and longevity of their products.

CONCLUSION

The legal framework for durability and the Right to Repair is evolving globally, with varying levels of enforcement and consumer protection across jurisdictions. While the European Union has taken a proactive approach by implementing repairability mandates and anti-planned obsolescence laws, the United States is making incremental progress through state-level legislation **and** consumer protection initiatives. India, though still in the early stages, is moving towards a formalized Right to Repair framework, complementing its existing consumer protection laws. Despite the growing recognition of consumer autonomy in repairs, significant challenges remain, including corporate resistance, intellectual property concerns, and technological **restrictions** that hinder independent repairs. However, increasing consumer awareness, environmental concerns, and legislative efforts are pushing markets

toward more sustainable and repair-friendly business models. Strengthening the Right to Repair laws will not only enhance **consumer** rights and market transparency but also contribute to environmental sustainability and economic efficiency by reducing e-waste and promoting a circular economy. Moving forward, a harmonized international approach is essential to ensure that manufacturers prioritize durability, accessibility to repairs, and consumer empowerment in the design and distribution of products.

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